(c) what would be its impact on the ongoing programmes in clean energy development, water and sanitation and basic education, etc.; and

(d) the areas where US aid was being utilized in India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. According to US Government, this cut has been proposed due to categorisation of India as a 'transforming State' instead of a 'developing' one, in view of India's characterisation as among the world's best performing economies and its emergence as a significant donor in its own right.

(c) These programmes are not expected to be affected by the proposed cut as the amount of the US aid is not significant when compared to the money spent by the Central and the State Governments to address the issues of clean energy development, water and sanitation and basic education.

(d) US aid in India is being utilised to support US participation in bilateral health programmes, disaster management strategies, energy and environment issues, education and skill development, women empowerment, agriculture and allied activities etc.

Maritime security package

1284. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India unveiled a maritime security package for the benefit of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF);

(b) if so, the salient features of this package;

(c) whether India is going to design and conduct a training module on maritime security;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this forum would also address the issue of global terrorism; and

(f) if so, to what extent Pakistan and China are going to cooperate on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Yes. At the meeting of the 14th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Manila on 2 August, 2007, India offered assistance to ARF member states in building capacity to ensure the safety and security of sea-lanes passing through the region. It was announced that India would be designing and conducting a training module on maritime security specifically for the ARF Member States, with the themes of anti-piracy, search and rescue, offshore and port security, anti-smuggling and narcotics control and anti-poaching operations.

(e) and (f) The ARF is addressing the issue of terrorism through its Inter-sessional meeting (ISM) on counter-terrorism and transnational crime. ARF countries, including China and Pakistan, participate in meetings of the ISM.